

It is these folks and it is their families' sacrifice who brought us together. Once again, I believe that going forward, veterans just like these will continue to bring us together. It is my challenge to everybody in this body and all across the United States that we recognize our veterans' service and their families' sacrifices as we approach Veterans Day.

BUILD BACK BETTER AGENDA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, we stand on a precipice in which shortly we are about to deliver truly a once-in-a-generation piece of legislation; action that will lower the everyday costs that burden working families in my district in Pennsylvania and throughout the Nation—from healthcare to childcare and more—and fully paid for by making corporations and the richest 1/10 of 1 percent pay their fair share.

Here is what it does: First, lower healthcare costs: negotiating lower drug costs for seniors; halting Big Pharma's outrageous price hikes well above inflation; and expanding the Affordable Care Act to make coverage more affordable for those who buy their own insurance.

Second, lower childcare and family care costs: expanding the basic promise of free schooling in America for the first time in a century with universal preschool for all 3- and 4-year-olds. This is so critical. In my State, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, only 16 percent of 3- and 4-year-olds have access to universal pre-K. It also will slash families' childcare costs; extend the landmark Biden Child Tax Credit, which has helped reduce child poverty in this country this year by 50 percent; and will expand access to affordable home care for older adults and those with disabilities.

Third, we are talking about the largest investment to combat the climate crisis in our Nation's history: cutting pollution; reducing energy costs; creating good-paying jobs with a transformational investment to ensure America leads the worldwide clean energy economy.

Why would we want China to take the lead on that? They are already investing a ton of money in clean energy. It is time for the United States to catch up and take the lead. We are the number one country, but in order to remain the number one country, we have to get with it when it comes to where the jobs will be in this century.

The Build Back Better Act lowers costs and fights inflation because—and I hope everyone hears this—it is fully 100 percent paid for. Not one person who makes under \$400,000 a year will pay one extra dime in taxes, not one. In fact, many, especially those families with children, will see their taxes go down.

Mr. Speaker, I want to paraphrase—and I hope I have the quote exactly right; I am going on memory. I remember when I was growing up in Pennsylvania some decades ago in the 1980s, our Governor was Bob Casey, Sr., a legendary figure in Pennsylvania politics.

He once said: What did you do when you had the power? That is a question that will be asked of all public servants. What did you do to help people when you had the power? That is what the Build Back Better Act is about, answering that question; delivering in all of these measures that I just cited.

Once this passes the House, passes the Senate, and is signed into law, it will truly be the most important domestic bill in my lifetime. It will help ordinary people, from the Second Congressional District of Pennsylvania, to all 435 congressional districts in this Nation. Working families deserve it.

Look at how hard it is today to achieve the American Dream. We know, based on statistics, that working families and middle class families are struggling out there. Yes, the unemployment rate is coming down. We are in such a better position right now than where we were a year ago. Every single statistic supports that. It is not enough. We need to build back and we need to build back better.

TRILLIONS OF DOLLARS REMAIN UNSPENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. JOYCE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, right now, as our country continues to suffer from the negative effects of the Democrats' previous reckless spending spree, it is clear that we do not yet need another reckless spending bill that would further balloon our debt and raise all inflation without actually addressing the issues that we are currently facing.

Congress has already appropriated trillions of dollars that has not yet been spent. Again, trillions of dollars remain unspent. Instead of passing yet another trillion-dollar spending bill, of which only 10 percent would actually go to true infrastructure, we can repurpose those earlier funds to meet the needs of our communities.

I am proud to be joining my colleagues as a cosponsor of legislation that would use the money that Congress has already approved to truly help the communities that we serve; legislation that has already been passed by our colleagues in the Senate.

Now is not the time to waste money on taxpayer-funded kickbacks to green energy companies or spend \$50 million to monitor coastal erosion. We need to fund infrastructure improvements that our communities need. We need to do so without mortgaging our children's future.

We were elected to be responsible stewards of the taxpayers' dollars, and

passing the Green New Deal dressed up as infrastructure is not the way forward.

BUILD BACK BETTER AGENDA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. ROSS) for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the urgent need to pass the Build Back Better agenda, a transformational package that will help individuals and working families across North Carolina.

This bold legislation will bring down the high costs that have held families back for decades by making childcare, home care, education, healthcare, and housing more affordable. This is a package for the people—all the people—and it spans generations, providing support to infants, students, working adults, and older Americans.

Right now, the average annual cost for a child in North Carolina to attend a childcare center is nearly \$9,000. The average North Carolina family with two young children spends more than 20 percent of their annual income on childcare. That is unacceptable. For kids to thrive and for parents to excel in the workplace, we need quality, affordable childcare.

I have a constituent from Cary, North Carolina, named Katy, she works at a nonprofit and has a 1-year-old child. She told me this:

Becoming a mom has opened my eyes to how broken our Nation's childcare system is.

We felt lucky to find a spot for my child at a high-quality childcare program, but the cost was shocking. We pay more than \$800 a month for my son's care.

At the same time, the director and teachers at my son's program likely don't make a living wage.

They're doing one of the most important jobs in the world, helping raise the next generation. Why aren't they compensated fairly?

Childcare providers shouldn't have to work second jobs on the weekends to feed their families, but many do.

At the same time, parents can't shoulder the burden.

In fact, the extremely high cost of childcare is a major factor for my family as we decide to have a second child.

Katy's story is so common. If we claim to value our children and our families, we need to stop turning a blind eye to the exploding costs of childcare. We can do better.

That is why the Build Back Better Act will provide universal pre-K for all 3- and 4-year-olds and limit childcare costs for working families to no more than 7 percent of their income.

Mr. Speaker, we also need to do more for our seniors and their loved ones. Every American should be able to look forward to a comfortable, secure retirement. Our seniors should not have to worry about financially burdening their children and their grandchildren.

In my family, my father-in-law wanted to stay in the home he loved, and he did until he was 98 years old. We found